

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188254

USCINCEUR FOR AMB. MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SCANDINAVIAN CONCERN OVER KENYA-UGANDA TENSION

1. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT CALLED ON UNDER-
SECRETARY HABIB JULY 28 TO OBTAIN OUR ASSESSMENT OF KENYA-
UGANDA SITUATION. HABIB TOLD HIM WE CONSIDER THAT THE
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SITUATION HAS COOLED, THAT WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME POST-

URING GOING ON THE TENSIONS OF PAST WEEKS HAVE BEEN RELAX-
ED. STATED READINESS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO COUNTENANCE
INVOLVEMENT BY OAU OR OTHER BODIES HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS
AS HAS WILLINGNESS OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS TO EXPRESS
INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. THE KENYANS DO NOT WANT TROUBLE,
BUT THEY WILL NOT LET THE UGANDANS WALK OVER THEM OR EVEN
KICK THEM.

2. IN REPLY TO SOMMERFELT'S QUESTION REGARDING SHORTAGE
OF PETROLEUM IN UGANDA, HABIB SAID THAT AMIN HAS REPORTEDLY
HUSBANDED ENOUGH FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS BUT OUR GUESS
AT PRESENT IS THAT HE WILL NOT TAKE MILITARY ACTION. OTHER
AFRICANS HAVE TOLD US THEY SHARE THIS BELIEF. UGANDA'S
ARMY IS NOT SO GOOD AND AMIN KNOWS IT. HOWEVER, HE IS
OFTEN IRRATIONAL AND NO ONE CAN SAFELY PREDICT HIS ACTIONS.
WE CAN ONLY BE GLAD WE HAVE HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH HIM.

3. SOMMERFELT ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF AMIN'S OVERTHROW.

HABIB REPLIED THAT WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THIS BUT
THAT HE APPARENTLY HAS TROUBLES WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE.
AT ANY RATE THE AFRICANS SEEM PREPARED TO HANDLE THE
KENYA-UGANDA PROBLEM AND THERE IS LITTLE FOR THE US TO
DO. THE OAU IS SEIZED OF THE MATTER AND WE CAN SIT
BACK AND WATCH THE SITUATION BUBBLE. THE KENYANS ARE
BEING VERY STEADY. WE DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYTHING HAPPEN
TO THEM, BUT THEY HAVE A GOOD ARMY AND CAN TAKE CARE OF
THEMSELVES. THEY MAY NOT BE SO WELL EQUIPPED BUT THEY
HAVE COURAGE WHICH IS BETTER.

4. IN REPLY TO SOMMERFELT'S QUESTION ON OUR MILITARY
SALES TO KENYA, HABIB SAID WE ARE CONSIDERING SALE OF
F-5E'S AND ATTENDANT TRAINING BUT THAT NO CONTRACT HAS
YET BEEN SIGNED.

5. SWEDISH EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON AF/E ON SAME DAY
WITH SIMILAR QUERIES. BOTH HE AND SOMMERFELT MENTIONED
THAT NYERERE HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION TO
THEIR AMBASSADORS IN DAR ES SALAAM, WHICH IS APPARENTLY
WHAT PROMPTED THESE CALLS. KISSINGER
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